

SCAAC Meeting Minutes

(School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council)

March 10, 1999
State Board Room

SCAAC Agenda

#	Agenda Items	Presenters
1.	Meeting Minutes	Anne Keene
2.	Performance Based Credit	Betty Edwards / Carol Hanley
3.	District Accountability	Benny Lile
4.	School Report Card	Robyn Oatley / Angela Wilkins / Laura Graham
Adjournment		

SCAAC Meeting Minutes
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Copies of audiotapes of the meeting are available upon request.
Chairman Anne Keene called the meeting to order. The roll was called.

Members Present:

Kay Freeland	Gary Mielcarek	John Stephens
Suzanne Guyer	Roger Pankratz	Maynard Thomas
Anne Keene	Bob Sexton	Sharon Whitworth
Benny Lile	Linda Sheffield	

Eleven members were present and a quorum was present.

1. Meeting Minutes

Anne Keene

Chairperson Anne Keene asked the Council to look forward to the May meeting and the agenda for that meeting including the election of a new chairperson.

Total Meeting Time: 3 hours and 22 minutes.

2. Performance Based Credit

Betty Edwards /
Carol Hanley

Betty Edwards and Carol Hanley (KDE, Office of Curriculum and Professional Development) discussed performance based credit. Where the quality control component fits into the picture was discussed, whether with boards of education, school councils, or other agencies. Since it is the boards of education who grant diplomas, it would seem logical that awarding performance based credit would also lie in the hands of the boards.

Some of the issues discussed included whether or not other states use performance based credit; what are the financial concerns; is performance based credit based on one event such as an exit exam or on multiple events; where does quality control come into the picture; are performance based credit given based solely on some kind of test or may that credit be gained through other means?

Kay Freeland and Suzanne Guyer agreed that there should be some way to get assurances that when students exit a course they have certain levels of accomplishment in that content area. Such assurances could be given if students had to pass an exit exam of some kind. The suggestion was made that the state should provide some guidelines for consistency and uniformity in any exit exams/requirements.

Discussion followed. Sue Rigney explained the difference between an end of course test and a graduation test.

Bob Sexton summarized some general principles:

1. Preference for an end of course test, not graduation test.
2. Take time to develop.
3. What is the link to KCCT?
4. There must be opportunity for all students to learn.
5. Gradually build into the system—not all courses at once.
6. Implications for a statewide curriculum.
7. Link of high school expectations to college expectations.
8. Need for adequate KDE staff/resources.
9. Establish clear purpose.

The Chair called a recess. Chairperson Anne Keene reconvened the Council.

Kay Freeland shared a sample of a student's writing with the Council—each Council member received a copy.

3. District Accountability

Benny Lile

Chairperson Anne Keene focused the attention of the Council on the next topic on the agenda—district accountability. She recognized Benny Lile who presented the ideas his subcommittee had discussed. Benny listed the points the subcommittee had discussed to date:

1. Draw a district line, just like the lines schools have.
2. Use four categories: pace setter, successful, no consequences, and assistance.
3. Pace setter and reward districts would receive some type of recognition-not a dollar amount.
4. Assistance districts would have a scholastic audit of some kind.
5. Any school in assistance shall have a district component on the scholastic audit.
6. Any school with a Highly Skilled Educator shall have a defined role for district offices.

Discussion of the points followed. Kay Freeland noted that there are some areas in which districts have no control; therefore, districts should only be held accountable for those things they have actual control over. Benny Lile responded that the subcommittee felt the scholastic audit should have a place for notations about what the district had done or recommended and how the schools responded; this should demonstrate the district's actions to provide all the assistance possible.

Anne Keene summarized the Council's actions on district accountability at its last meeting—the summary of the points are on the handout "District Accountability Worksheet" from January 1999. The points on the worksheet under the heading of what districts should be accountable for include:

1. Providing services to each school
2. Providing financial services/support
3. Maintaining facilities
4. Providing instructional in-service; evaluation of principals
5. Communicating information to schools
6. Provide structure/process for instructional improvement

Council members discussed the concepts including what services districts could provide and what services districts actually have control over. It was noted that in some cases, certain decisions are not district decisions but rather school or school council decisions. Districts should be accountable for those services and decisions that they actually control. Any kind of district level audit should take these issues into account.

SCAAC Motions:

The Chair noted that the Council would need more information and more time to discuss and make better informed decisions on district accountability. Kay Freeland moved that the Council to endorse a scholastic audit to include a district component as long as that component includes only that which the district has control at the school level. The motion was seconded by John Stephens. Motion carried without opposition.

Benny Lile moved that the Council ask the department to establish a timeline to allow the Council time to consider the issues or recommendation from the Council to Kentucky Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Guyer. The motion passed without opposition.

Jon Akers asked for clarification on the action the Council took on March 9th. His question is what can high schools do this spring to hold seniors accountability. Cindy Owen from the Division of Assessment Implementation expressed concerns about using the 12th grade on demand writing as a item scored at the local level for the purposes of holding seniors accountable. The greatest concern is keeping the items secure. Deputy Commissioner Gene Wilhoit noted that the Kentucky Board of Education would need to deal with this action. It was decided that when action is taken and a policy is decided, that decision would be communicated as quickly as possible to districts.

4. School Report Card

**Robyn Oatley /
Angela Wilkins /
Laura Graham**

Chairperson Anne Keene recognized Robyn Oatley, Angela Wilkins, and Laura Graham to update the Council on the School Report Card. Council members were given drafts reflecting the most recent changes. Robyn also reported on responses from focus groups of parents and their reactions to the School Report Card.

Council members reviewed the documents, asked questions, and made suggestions. The Council commended Angela and Laura for their excellent work on the School Report Card throughout the process of developing and reporting to the Council.

Adjournment

SCAAC Motion:

Jon Akers moved adjournment; the motion was seconded by Suzanne Guyer. The Council adjourned.